



Save this Paper!

me _____

I-SEARCH

I-Search puts you in the driver's seat of your learning. In this assignment you will explore a topic in depth – a topic of your own choosing – something you are truly passionate.

You will learn how to research and discover as you write your I-Search paper. You will take an idea that captures your curiosity and hunt for facts and concepts firsthand. You will follow the example of scholars and organize your thoughts using the elements of depth & complexity while concurrently recording your process of discovery.

Your research will then become the foundation of a web page, a video, an experiment, a book, or some other display of scholarship.

Planning GATE SESSION 1

✓ Brainstorm a topic.

The first step in this process is to choose a topic that is truly intriguing. Complete the graphic organizer, “Brainstorming a Topic.”

✓ Pose a question and plan what you want to find out.

At this point you have to luxury to self-reflect. You will look at what you already know. With this information in mind, you will pose a question to answer: what do you want to find out? Complete the graphic organizer, “What I Know & What I Want to Find Out.”

✓ Plan how you will learn.

Sources include the Internet, books, videos, magazines, newspapers, interviews, and artifacts. Use at least three different types of sources. Complete the graphic organizer, “How I Will Learn.”

V Decide what your product will be.

Analyze your preferred learning style to help you choose a product that you will enjoy creating. Look at what people who work in this area do.

Be ready to tell what your topic, question, and product will be.

Researching GATE SESSION 2

V Find & Cite your Sources

In this step of your I-Search you become a first-hand inquirer. Your research will take you many places. You will peruse the Internet, interview people, read books, watch videos, and/or take field trips. You will cite your sources using the guidelines given by the Modern Language Association on the handout given in class. Use at least 3 different ones from the list below.

- The Internet
- Books
- Magazines
- Videos
- Encyclopedias
- Interview an Expert
- Go on a Field Trip

V Take Notes Using the Elements of Depth & Complexity

You will delve into the many aspects of your topic and look at it from many points of view. You will record your observations using the same categories many scholars use to organize their thoughts. Use the notes handout provided in class to take your notes.

V Find an Expert to Interview

People are good sources of information. Experts who are authorities in your topic not only know a great deal of information, but also they can direct you to good sources of information. Use the Interview handout to record your interview.

Producing GATE SESSION 3

✓ Create a Sophisticated Product

In this step of your I-Search you will be the producer of knowledge. You want to create a sophisticated product that will highlight the new insights you have discovered. The most effective I-Search projects are clearly directed toward some kind of action for an identified audience.

✓ Use the I-Search Product Rubric

Use this rubric as a guideline to see if you are highly proficient in creating your product.

Presenting GATE SESSION 4

✓ Complete your I-Search Paper.

- ✓ Three Graphic Organizers
 - ß Brainstorming a Topic
 - ß What I Know & What I Want to Find Out
 - ß How Will I Learn
- ✓ Notes
 - ß Depth & Complexity Notes
 - ß Interview Notes
- ✓ Citing your Sources Handout
- ✓ What I Discovered Paper
 - ß Reflect upon what you have learned. Type at least 200 words describing what you have learned in this process.

Staple the I-Search Paper Rubric on top of the other papers keeping them in the same order as listed above and hand them in when you present your product to the class.

✓ Present your product to your class.